



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Chile – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

March 10, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 9, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 9, the two USAID/OFDA water treatment units arrived in Pelluhue town in Maule District. In addition, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) C-130s airlifted five water treatment units provided by USAID/OFDA to Concepción for use by the Government of Chile (GoC) Ministry of Health.
- Twenty USAID/OFDA-provided dual voltage generators are scheduled to arrive in Santiago on March 11. Upon arrival, the generators will be donated to the GoC National Office of Emergencies and Information (ONEMI).
- A USAID/OFDA-funded U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) unit has arrived in Chile. On March 9, the EMEDS unit was transported by the GoC Ministry of Health to Angol town in La Araucanía Region—where the earthquake severely damaged a local hospital. The USAID/DART military liaison officer is stationed in Angol to coordinate with military personnel and local officials.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Confirmed Number of Deaths	507	U.N. – March 9
Estimated Total Number of Dead and Missing People	802 ¹	GoC – March 4
Estimated Affected Population	Approximately 2 million people	U.N. – March 8

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Chile..... \$10,699,656
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Chile \$10,699,656

CURRENT SITUATION

- According to the U.N., Chile's official death toll is 507 people. The GoC Ministry of the Interior has released a list of confirmed earthquake and tsunami victims containing 497 names; another 10 bodies have not yet been identified.
- The U.N. reports that curfews and increased Chilean military personnel—more than 16,000 soldiers in affected areas—have significantly reduced public insecurity and looting.
- A 16-member USAID/DART remains in Chile, working with U.S. Embassy personnel, GoC officials, and relief agencies to assess, identify, and respond to humanitarian needs in disaster-affected areas.

Livelihoods

- Heavy damage in tsunami-affected areas along the coast of Bío Bío and Maule regions has negatively impacted the livelihoods of more than 26,000 small-scale fishermen, who have lost boats, equipment, and houses, according to the U.N. The GoC Ministry of Public Works recently indicated that support for productive equipment, boats, and reconstruction of docks and other basic infrastructure is needed.
- The earthquake also affected Chile's wine-producing areas, with approximately 70 percent of vineyards located in earthquake-affected areas. Annually, most-affected Maule Region produces approximately 50 percent of Chile's wine for export. According to a recent U.N. report, although the earthquake resulted in significant lost production capacity and damage to existing stocks of wine, grape harvests are not expected to be impacted to a high degree.
- According to the U.N., the GoC Minister of Agriculture recently met with producers in Bío Bío Region and promised agricultural assistance programs, extensions of credit and adjusted terms of repayment, and emergency cash grants for amounts up to \$300.

Shelter and Settlements

- To date, GoC damage assessments in affected areas have identified approximately 200,000 houses as severely damaged or destroyed; the full extent of damage in declared disaster zones remains unknown, as GoC assessments are ongoing.

¹ Reports of the death toll vary; the GoC continues working to locate missing individuals and identify earthquake and tsunami victims.

- According to the GoC Minister of Housing, damaged subsidized housing will be evaluated by engineers to determine which properties are uninhabitable and which require demolition. In addition, families may receive subsidies to repair damaged houses.
- The GoC estimates that 19,000 people reside in 90 shelters in O'Higgins, Maule, and Bío Bío regions. Schools, parks, and stadiums are also being used as temporary shelters, according to the U.N.
- As of March 9, approximately 1,500 volunteers for *Un Techo Para Chile* (A Roof for Chile)—a well-known local non-governmental organization that builds small, low-cost houses—have built an estimated 300 emergency shelters in affected areas.

Emergency Food Needs and GoC Assistance

- The U.N. reports that populations in some areas continue to be without regular access to food. Local media also reports long queues at supermarkets, particularly those located in urban areas near Concepción.
- According to the U.N., Chilean military officials reports that the Chilean military has distributed 7,400 metric tons (MT) of food to affected areas by land, and another 84 MT by air. In addition, food aid has been delivered to isolated coastal communities, including tsunami-affected Dichato and Coliumo towns.

USAID/DART Assessments in Assessment in Concepción and Talcahuano

- In the city of Concepción, the USAID/DART reported that, although numerous buildings require demolition, very few have completely collapsed. The team indicated that this may account for the lower-than-expected death toll. In addition, USAID/DART members noted that, with many damaged buildings still standing, rubble and debris removal should be more manageable.
- The USAID/DART confirmed that damage in Talcahuano is significant, with up to 60 percent of the housing stock—primarily single family homes—damaged to some degree. A large proportion of damaged houses are of wooden construction to which a brick face has been added. In many cases, the earthquake caused the facing to separate from the structure and collapse forward. While other houses appear undamaged, structural assessments may determine the foundations to be unsound. As a result, the team noted a continued need for habitability assessments in Talcahuano and surrounding areas.
- The team visited the tsunami-affected Talcahuano business district, noting that the tsunami left some fishing boats on land and caused others to sink. In addition, the team confirmed that businesses in the area experienced considerable looting in the days immediately following the earthquake.
- In Talcahuano, the USAID/DART and the U.S. Ambassador also visited with officials at the port, who reported that the earthquake and tsunami have disrupted local livelihoods, particularly for those working in the fishing and port-related or export industries, with many business and factories in the region expected to remain out of commission for up to six months.

USAID/DART Assessments in Assessment in Pelluhue and Curanipe

- On March 9, a five-person team comprising USAID/DART members and U.S. Embassy personnel inspected tsunami-affected areas of Pelluhue and Curanipe towns in Maule District, where the tsunami caused destruction up to 800 meters inland in some areas.
- According to the USAID/DART, the tsunami heavily impacted coastal areas of Pelluhue and Curanipe, while the earthquake alone caused relatively little damage in the surrounding urban areas. However, in rural areas near Pelluhue and Curanipe, the team reported that damage to houses is evident, but varies from house to house. The team also confirmed previous reports indicating that adobe and older structures sustained the most damage.
- The USAID/DART observed firefighters performing housing habitability assessments in the rural area around Curanipe, marking each house according to International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) conventions, but substituting the number of deaths with the level of damage on a scale from 0 to 10.

U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On February 27, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response to the effects of the earthquake in Chile and facilitate information-sharing and provision of assistance to disaster-affected individuals.
- On February 28, U.S. Ambassador Paul E. Simons issued a disaster declaration in response to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID deployed a 16-member USAID/DART to Chile to conduct assessments of humanitarian conditions in earthquake- and tsunami-affected areas, work with the U.S. Embassy and GoC to identify and respond to priority humanitarian needs, and coordinate the delivery of USAID/OFDA-funded emergency relief commodities.
- To date, USAID/OFDA assistance in response to the earthquake totals nearly \$10.7 million, including support for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emergency appeal, funding to support

the deployment of a U.S. Air Force EMEDS unit to affected areas, and the provision and transport of eight mobile water treatment units and rolls of plastic sheeting from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida.

- The USG has dispatched satellite phones to Chile to facilitate communications in affected areas until telephone networks are repaired. In addition, the DoD has deployed two C-130s to Chile to assist with the transport of emergency relief supplies from Santiago to Concepción.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE FOR THE EARTHQUAKE

FY 2010			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IFRC	Emergency Response Activities	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
DoD	EMEDS unit	Affected Areas	\$8,600,000
Consignee to be determined (TBD)	Logistics and Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$913,140
TBD	Emergency Response Activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
	Administration and Support Costs		\$136,516
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE			\$10,699,656
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¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of March 10, 2010.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Chile may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int